



MAYOR BOB FOSTER

CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 8, 2013

Mr. Matt Rodriquez
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: City of Long Beach input on the development of an investment plan for auction proceeds from the State's cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gases

Dear Secretary Rodriquez:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of the progress that has been made by CalEPA and the California Air Resources Board to implement the State's cap-and-trade program. The City is particularly encouraged CalEPA has recognized communities along the southern I-710 corridor as disadvantaged communities for investment per SB 535, and requests cap-and-trade auction proceeds be directed to local governments to implement local projects that will reduce greenhouse gases in these and adjacent communities.

Long Beach, population 461,257 (2010), is the second largest city in the County of Los Angeles and the seventh largest in California. Located directly adjacent to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the City contains four zip codes, which CalEPA classifies as high priority, and places within the top five-percent bracket on the CalEnviroScreen map [CALENVIROSCREEN Top 5% Base Map – Los Angeles Area (Jan 2013)]. These areas are urban, densely populated, and home to a community that represents various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

As noted in the agencies' report, there are several sources of greenhouse gas emissions that directly contribute to climate change. The City of Long Beach recognizes that structural changes in transportation planning, energy, building and neighborhood programs, urban nature, waste reduction and water conservation are needed to create a more sustainable future with significantly less greenhouse gas emissions.

Three years ago, Long Beach adopted the Sustainable City Action Plan (SCAP) with the mission to create a comprehensive, citywide model for sustainable programs and projects that would lead Long Beach towards becoming a greener, more sustainable community. The plan was drafted through collaboration with City staff, the Sustainable City Commission, and the citizens of Long Beach. On February 2, 2010, the Long Beach City Council adopted SCAP to focus on reducing greenhouse gases through policy and operational changes in transportation, energy, planning and building, waste reduction and water conservation to create a more sustainable Long Beach.

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The SCAP holds potential to make Long Beach one of the greenest cities in the State, perhaps in the nation. The plan has been carefully drafted and administered since its inception in 2010 and the City has accomplished many beneficial projects and programs with limited resources and funding. Through policy changes, and programs and projects consistent with SCAP, Long Beach has been able to foster sustainable initiatives that involve transportation improvements, green spaces and corridors, urban agriculture and forestry, energy use and generation, water quality improvements throughout the City; and especially in disadvantaged communities.

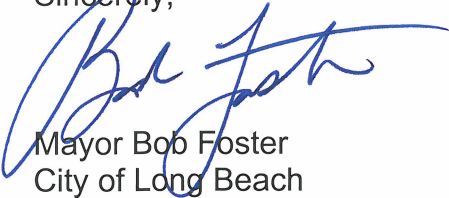
Presently, Long Beach transportation planning has shifted towards the concept of “complete streets”, a focus on transit-oriented development in new construction. We have implemented programs to leverage city resources with the needs of our community, such a graywater installations, and a very popular mulch delivery program. Long Beach has installed over 120 miles of bike lanes and bike “sharrows” on major corridors connecting neighborhoods to businesses and key places throughout the City to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The City is also in the midst of planting 10,000 trees throughout greenhouse gas impacted neighborhoods. Along with the abovementioned projects, Long Beach offers a Green Business Recognition Program to businesses that strive to become environmentally sustainable. All of these programs are designed to meet the ultimate goal of reducing greenhouse gases in Long Beach.

With the proposed use of cap-and-trade auction proceeds going towards GHG reduction and sequestering methods, the City of Long Beach supports the visions and guidelines that have been laid out in SB 1532 and SB 535. This support is due to the direct correlation of these measures to projects and programs outlined in the City’s SCAP.

What is needed now is additional funding to implement larger infrastructure programs and projects that will reduce greenhouse gases from goods movement and transportation in the region. At this time, the City of Long Beach is encouraged CalEPA has recognized communities along the southern I-710 corridor as disadvantaged communities for investment per SB 535, and requests cap-and-trade auction proceeds be directed to local governments to implement local projects and programs that will reduce greenhouse gases in these and adjacent communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have questions, please contact Tom Modica, Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives at 562-570-5606 or Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,



Mayor Bob Foster
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33th District
The Honorable Lou Correa, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Rod Wright, State Senate 35th District
The Honorable Ted Lieu, State Senate, 28th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall III, State Assembly, 64nd District
The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, State Assembly, 70th District